



## Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SPECIALIST**

#### **CLASS DEFINITION**

Under general supervision, coordinates, administers and provides curriculum-based environmental education programs. Develops and implements new programming, and provides docent training/curriculum instruction with the Interpretation & Education Program Manager. Continually evaluates program effectiveness, and improves and refines program delivery to meet educator and community needs. Communicates regularly with schools and educators on District programming. Ensures all programming lies within the framework of established objectives, budgetary constraints, policies and guidelines. Serves as technical lead, trainer, day-to-day contact of the District's docents. The Environmental Education Specialist may also work weekends to support or provide weekend program offerings; and performs related work as required.

#### **SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED**

Receives direct or general supervision from the Interpretation & Education Program Manager. Exercises no direct supervision over staff. May provide technical and functional direction over lower-level staff, interns, and/or volunteers.

#### **CLASS CHARACTERISTICS**

This is an journey-level classification, which coordinates and administers the District's curriculum-based environmental science education programs. Initially under close supervision, incumbents with basic environmental education, physical or natural sciences, environmental or conservation experience perform professional and technical work in assigned activities. As experience is gained, assignments become more varied and are performed with greater independence. Work is usually supervised while in progress, and fits an established structure or pattern. Exceptions or changes in procedures are explained in detail, as they arise. This classification is distinguished from the Interpretation & Education Program Manager in that the latter is the professional lead for the District's interpretation and environmental education programs and provides the full range of management oversight and staff supervision for multiple elements of public programming and project development.

#### **EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS (Illustrative Only)**

*Management reserves the right to add, modify, change or rescind the work assignments of different positions and to make reasonable accommodations so that qualified employees can perform the essential functions of the job.*

- Works cooperatively with other District staff and supports coordination staff to ensure all elements of programming are efficient and effective.
- Assists in developing curriculum, program goals and objectives, policies, procedures, work standards, and administrative control systems for the Interpretation and Education program.

- Serves as a key staff person at and docent liaison for the David C. Daniels Nature Center, with primary focus on support of environmental education programs.
- Coordinates Outdoor Education Leader docent recruitment and training; maintains webpage elements; performs application intake; tracks applicant process; conducts interviews and selects trainees; provides training and all needed materials.
- Serves as the day-to-day functional supervisor and contact for Outdoor Education Leader docents; receives and reviews required online post-program reports from docents; responds to docents regarding program satisfaction; designs and implements recognition activities and events; And ensures docents are kept informed about the District's operations, and their program's priorities.
- Maintains record of docent hours and years of service for program commitment compliance and recognition acknowledgement.
- Monitors program performance; solicits and reviews educator comments on the effectiveness of programs and docent performance; recommends and implements modifications to systems and procedures.
- Maintains required contact (via database or web-interface) with schools and educators interested in and/or receiving District environmental education programs. Establishes and administers school field trip schedules for docents and educators, as needed; and provides all program materials to educators.
- Schedules and coordinates biannual debrief meetings with Outdoor Education Leaders to review completed education programs, discuss needed changes, and celebrate successes.
- Identifies and implements ways to recruit new Outdoor Education Leader docents; and uses professional networks and community resources as available.
- Reviews and updates the docent section of the District's website; and responds to inquiries from potential docents and the general public.
- Assists with developing and maintaining the District's volunteer handbook and ensuring all Outdoor Education Leader docents receive a copy; ensures all docents attend safety and emergency response training as required and are informed about all District policies and procedures related to their work.
- Prepares and maintains accurate and complete records of the work performed; prepares clear and concise reports to monitor the success of assigned programs; creates related written materials as necessary.
- Works collaboratively to plan and implement enrichment activities/trainings, recognition celebrations, and community events.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Knowledge of:**

- Principles and techniques of educational and instructional methods to plan, coordinate, deliver, and direct curriculum-based environmental science education programs.
- Working understanding of STEM principles, Next Generation Science and Common Core Standards to support educators in meeting mandated requirements.
- Inquiry-based nature instruction for students and training of volunteers (docents) to provide complimentary outdoor environmental education experiences. Best practices for outdoor and/or classroom teaching, and instruction for adult learners.
- California ecology and natural and cultural history and interpretation; also conservation principles and current environmental challenges (e.g. climate change; equitable access to nature; nature benefits, health and well-being; etc.)
- Principles and practices of docent supervision/volunteer management, including work planning, assignment, review and evaluation, discipline, and recognition.

- Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite and internet-based software platforms (e.g. Mail Chimp; Survey Monkey; EventBrite; scheduling programs; etc); Record-keeping principles and procedures.
- Practices of researching program issues, evaluating alternatives, making sound recommendations, preparing staff reports or proposals, making presentations.
- Applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulatory codes, ordinances, and procedures relevant to assigned area of responsibility.
- Techniques for engaging with a variety of individuals from various socio-economic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds.
- Basic principles and practices of budget program development, administration, and accountability.
- English usage, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and punctuation.

**Ability to:**

- Implement relevant and meaningful interdisciplinary learning experiences that engage learners (docents/adults and students) in exploring and investigating the world around them.
- Demonstrate the skills of flexibility and responsiveness to foster a positive, inclusive, and collaborative learning environment.
- Train, instruct, mentor, motivate, and coach docents and students; provide appropriate feedback and evaluation.
- Apply key skills to daily work including: effective communication; time management; autonomy; cooperation; prioritization; consultation; leadership, creative problem solving; and delegation.
- Research, analyze, and evaluate new program ideas and delivery methods, procedures, and techniques.
- Use tact, initiative, prudence, and independent judgment within general policy, procedural, and legal guidelines.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees and those contacted in the course of the work.

**Education and Experience:**

*Any combination of training and experience that would provide the required knowledge, skills and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required qualifications would be:*

Equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with major coursework in environmental education, physical or natural sciences, environmental or conservation studies, or a related field; and two (2) year of relevant experience working in programs that provide curriculum-focused educational services to students (K-12, and/or college) preferably in an outdoor education setting, park, recreation area, or open space environment. Bilingual skills, teaching credential (multi- or single-subject) or environmental education certificate highly desirable.

**Licenses and Certifications:**

- Possession of a valid California Driver's license.
- Possession of, or ability to obtain, Basic First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification within six (6) months of employment.

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

Must possess mobility to work in a standard office setting and use standard office equipment, including a computer; to operate a motor vehicle and to visit various preserves, and offsite locations; vision to read printed materials and a computer screen; and hearing and speech to communicate in person, before

groups, and over the telephone. This classification is partially sedentary in the office and partially active in the field - hiking/walking is required while conducting programs and trainings. Finger dexterity is needed to use equipment like microscopes, and to access, enter, and retrieve data using a computer keyboard or calculator and to operate other standard office equipment. Persons in this classification occasionally bend, stoop, kneel, reach, push and pull drawers open and closed to retrieve and file information. Persons in this classification occasionally lift, carry, push and pull equipment and supplies weighing up to 50 pounds.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

Employees work in an office environment with moderate noise levels, controlled temperature conditions, and no direct exposure to hazardous physical substances. Employees may work in the field and occasionally be exposed to loud noise levels, cold and hot temperatures, inclement weather conditions, or road hazards. Employees may interact with upset staff and/or public and private representatives in interpreting and enforcing departmental policies and procedures.

### **WORKING CONDITIONS**

May be required to work evenings, weekends, and holidays. Must wear District issued uniform when interacting with the public or as deemed necessary.

EFFECTIVE: February 2019

REVISED: N/A

FLSA: Non-exempt